

The Musician

MISCHA MAISKY

Mischa Maisky has the distinction of being the only cellist in the world to have studied with both Mstislav Rostropovich and Gregor Piatigorsky. Rostropovich has lauded him as “one of the most outstanding talents of [his] generation. His playing combines poetry and exquisite delicacy with great temperament and brilliant technique.” Mischa Maisky has been enthusiastically received in London, Paris, Berlin, Vienna, New York, and Tokyo, to mention only a few of the major music centers of the world. After winning the prestigious Gaspar Cassado International Cello Competition in Florence, Italy, Maisky made his debut at Carnegie Hall in November 1973 with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra under William Steinberg. In 1974 he was awarded an America-Israel Cultural Foundation scholarship for study with Gregor Piatigorsky, becoming his last student. At the Rostropovich Cello Competition in Paris, Maisky was awarded the special prize for his interpretation of the commissioned work.

Mischa Maisky began his studies in his native Riga, Latvia, and continued in Saint Petersburg (then Leningrad), where he won the All-Russian Cello Competition at age seventeen. A year later he won a prize at the International Tchaikovsky Competition, which led to studies with Mstislav Rostropovich at the Moscow Conservatory. While still a student, Maisky launched an active concert career throughout the Soviet Union. In 1972 Maisky emigrated to Israel, where he soon established himself as one of the leading European cellists of his generation. His love of chamber music led him to Gidon Kremer's Lockenhaus Festival, where he is a regular guest and performs with pianists Martha Argerich, Radu Lupu, Peter Serkin, Malcolm Frager, and Nelson Freire.